

Congresswoman Kaptur this afternoon announced a \$3.5 million federal award from the Economic Development Administration to expand cargo operations at Toledo Express Airport. Congresswoman Kaptur made the announcement along with officials of both the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and the Lucas County Improvement Corporation and State Rep. Matt Szollosi.

The federal award, Kaptur said, will be augmented by a previously-announced \$2.78 million state loan and \$1 million BAX commitment in order to secure 800 existing jobs and open the door to new air cargo service and more jobs to the site.

“This award, which further enhances Toledo's reputation as a global distribution center, will create good-paying construction jobs and retain hundreds of jobs at the BAX facility,” said Congresswoman Kaptur. “Air cargo is a crucial piece of Toledo's multi-modal transportation advantage.”

The federal award is the centerpiece of a \$7.2 million funding package to build a customs facility and truck terminal at the BAX hub and relocate the hub's maintenance

Congresswoman Kaptur was also joined at the event by Michael J. Stolarczyk, president of the port authority, and Ford Weber, president of the LCIC.

Mr. Stolarczyk said the project would make the air cargo operations at Toledo Express more competitive. “Once complete, the BAX Global cargo hub will be the premier international air cargo facility in the country--a truly efficient, low-cost, high throughput operation. Toledo Express Airport has an economic impact of \$640 million for northwest Ohio. Reinvestments in this regional asset, such as this grant and the \$1 million commitment from BAX Global, ensure our viability and encourage growth.” Mr. Stolarczyk said the Toledo facility is not only “low cost,” but benefits from proximity to “every mode of transportation known to man,” including highway, rail, waterborne and air.

Representative Szollosi said, “Our message to the people of Northwest Ohio is clear: this is about jobs.”

Congresswoman Kaptur said, “Distribution is one of our area's strategic advantages due to our location. This expansion allows us to position ourselves to be more efficient and competitive and to lead the way in intermodal distribution.” Kaptur noted that the number of logistics terminals and services is shrinking, pointing to the loss of the DHL facility in Wilmington.

She said intermodal transportation connections are becoming increasingly important factors when companies make crucial site selection decisions. Kaptur has been involved in efforts to promote multi-modal transportation opportunities in the area, including a visit to Nova Scotia to work on the “Atlantic Gateway” concept.

Toledo Express has emerged as the main hub for BAX Global on the North American continent. BAX, a subsidiary of Deutsche Bahn AG, one of the largest mobility and logistics

companies in the world, operates a 300,000 square-foot facility, including 4,500 square feet of cold storage, at Toledo Express.

BAX operates approximately 20 domestic and international flights daily at the Toledo airport, offering capacity to freight forwarding firms.

The expansion project will involve a sorting facility that can accommodate wide-body aircraft and greater capacity to handle bulk loads and a "cross dock" to expedite the transfer of material between airplanes and trucks, improving overall efficiency and reducing inventory storage costs.

Congresswoman Kaptur said the project is expected to take 12-18 months to complete.

She noted that Toledo Express enjoys easy access to deepwater port facilities, the third largest rail center in the United States, and major highway access via the Ohio Turnpike/I-75 Corridor, which is located within 500 miles of 50 percent of the U.S. and Canadian industrial markets.